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Franklin Austin Seely

A serious loss has befallen American anthropology in the death, at Washington, February 6, 1895, of Franklin Austin Seely, in the sixty-first year of his age.

Colonel Seely was born in Seelyville, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1834, graduating at Yale college in the class of 1855. During the war of the rebellion he was assistant quartermaster of volunteers, and was discharged in 1867 with the brevet rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1875 he entered the civil service as assistant examiner in the United States Patent Office. In April, 1877, he was appointed chief clerk of the office, surrendering the position, however, in June, 1880, to accept the appointment of principal examiner, having charge of the philosophical division, to which, upon his accession, was added the division of trade-marks. In 1887 the United States acceded to the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property, and to Colonel Seely was assigned the task of reviewing the Convention of Paris. His interpretations of that technical convention have been universally accepted, both in this country and abroad. It may safely be said that the mind of Examiner Seely was the only one in this country which by previous experience and training was adapted to follow with clearness and precision the scope and significance of the many questions arising within the office or referred to it touching the international relations of these recondite property interests. During the terms of Secretaries Bayard and Blaine the Department of State frequently had occasion to seek the aid of his opinions. In recognition of his eminent fitness for the duty, Secretary Blaine, in 1890, designated him as a delegate from the United States to the International Patent Conference held at Madrid during the summer of that year. His writings on the international protection of industrial property and allied subjects for use before patent congresses and conventions have been widely distributed.

But it is in his researches in the fields of anthropology that the name of Colonel Seely is best known. While he was not a charter member of the Anthropological Society of Washington, which was founded in February, 1879, the records show him a member of the Board of Managers in the following year, and for

ten successive years he gave his best services to the Society as secretary to this working body of the organization. In this formative period of the Society's existence his trained faculty of analysis and investigation was highly instrumental in laying broad and strong foundations for the future growth of anthropology in this country. As a contributor to the proceedings of the Society, both in stated papers and in discussions, he was always ready, accurate, and convincing. His mind was eminently practical, and the realm of industrial technology opened to him an inexhaustible field of investigation. His treatise on "The Genesis of Inventions" will long remain one of the clearest expositions of the science of eurematics. The records of the Society show other papers upon cognate topics, such as that entitled "Time-keeping among the Greeks and Romans," a most felicitous monograph upon a hitherto little considered subject.

Versatile, accomplished, practical, wise, the pages of his busy life are marked with monuments of work in many fields faithfully done. The tribute of the Latin poet is eminently his:

Integer vitæ scelerisque purus.

P. B. PIERCE.

Joaquin García Icazbalceta

Joaquin García Icazbalceta was born at the Mexican capital August 21, 1825, and died in his native city November 26, 1894. His father was Eusebio García, of Spain, and his mother a Mexican lady of Spanish extraction from the Vasque provinces. In the year 1829 his family came to the United States, where they remained for some time, and from there went to Spain, returning to Mexico in 1836.

Young Icazbalceta received very little education; his youth was spent mainly in his father's mercantile establishment, and most of his learning he gained at home. He early devoted himself to the study of the English language, and his peculiar aptitude enabled him soon to translate Prescott's "Conquest of Peru," to which he added an appendix bringing the history to date. Before this time, however, he published an analytical criticism of Prescott's work, under the initials F. M., in "El Album Mexi-